

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Use of Cowdung in Agriculture

2234. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the use of cowdung as manure in agriculture sector is found to be most suitable in comparison to other chemical and fertilizers ;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to revert to the use of cowdung as manure to curb health-hazards factor in agricultural sector ;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Both cowdung and chemical fertilizers have an important place in agriculture. Hence there is no plan to rely exclusively on cowdung. Chemical fertilizers being a concentrated form of nutrients are essential for high crop yields. Use of chemical fertilizers has not caused any health-hazards.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Coordination between Civic Bodies in Delhi

2235. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tragic loss of 57 lives and property at Uphaar Cinema fire incident recently has been attributed to lack of coordination between the licensing authority and various other civic bodies ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Delhi Government has requested the Centre to transfer to it all civic, housing, licensing and law enforcing etc. authorities so as to ensure better co-ordination among all agencies to achieve better unit of command ;

(d) whether the Government proposed to accept the Delhi Government's request ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) not, the manner in which the Government envisage to avoid repetition of post Uphaar type situation in which agencies working under the Central Government blame the agencies working under the Delhi Government for tragedy and vice-versa ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Following the "Uphaar" incident in which 59 persons lost their lives, the Lt. Governor of Delhi appointed the Deputy Commissioner (South), Delhi to look into the cause (s) and circumstances leading to the fire, fix responsibility for lapses, if any, on the part of the agencies involved and suggest measures to prevent such incidents in future. The report submitted by the Deputy Commissioner (South) concluded that all the agencies concerned namely, Delhi Vidyut Board, Licensing Branch of Delhi Police, Delhi Fire Services and Municipal Corporation of Delhi including the Management of Uphaar, theatre had to share the blame for their acts of omission and commission which contributed to the tragedy.

(c) to (e) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi had recently taken up, *inter alia*, the issues of transfer of the licensing powers from the Commissioner of Police to Magistracy as also the transfer of the Delhi Development Authority to the local Government. Whereas land" is a "reserved subject" retained with the Central Government as per the relevant Constitutional provisions, it was, in respect of transfer of licensing powers, decided that the Lt. Governor of Delhi should make suitable recommendations to the Central Government after reviewing the matter.

(f) Following the fire incident in Uphaar Cinema on 13.6.97, a survey of Cinema Halls and banquet halls in the National Capital Territory was conducted by a team of officers headed by respective SDMs. Another survey of 13 Cinema halls and 9 hotels which were due for renewal of permit was got conducted through Chief Fire Officer from fire safety point of view by the Delhi Police. Some of the Cinema halls were found to be deficient in fire safety norms. Delhi Police have suspended the permit of 2 such Cinema Halls/Guest Houses. Notices have also been issued in cases where deficiencies in respect of fire safety norms have been notified by Municipal Corporation of Delhi, NDMC, Delhi Vidyut Board, Delhi Fire Service and Delhi Police for expeditious rectification.

12.00 hrs. _____

[English]

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Question Hour is over now.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am on the next item now. Please take your seat.